

# **Land Stewardship Committee Meeting Minutes**

## **July 11, 2007, 4:00 P.M.**

### **New View Common House**

Present: Joan Cirillo, Bob Guba, Peggy Liversidge (minute-taker), Nan Towle Millett, Rich Rhode, Jim Snyder-Grant (chair), Laurie Ullmann

June minutes: The June minutes were accepted.

Stoneymeade update: Jim has heard from Gigi that the mowing on what we believe is conservation land by the landowner abutting the northern corner of the Stoneymeade parcel has stopped, but we still don't know if the property line survey has been carried out by the landowner. Jim said he will check to see if stakes have been put in.

Quail Ridge Country Club update: Jim reported that the letter we sent to the Planning Board last month about trail access between Nagog Hill and Route 2A was briefly discussed at the Board's June meeting, but nothing was done at that point about the concern raised in the letter. It served primarily to prompt the Board to decide to ask the Quail Ridge people to come before the Board to discuss their plans. Jim noted that Northwest Development, which developed the golf course, has gone out of business.

Website: Rich reported that he is currently unable to access the website to update it. The Town's IT Department has recently reorganized the Town website, and this may be the source of the problem. He is in touch with the department and trying to resolve the problem.

Wheeler Lane items: (a) *Vegetation removal:* Jim said that he would like to clear the vegetation at the north end of the meadow by the Wheeler Lane parking lot (to the left of the sluiceway bridge) to expose a stone wall that is presently not visible. It was agreed that he could proceed with this. Bob said that he would also like to have the vegetation around a rock in the meadow cleared, have loam put down around it, and have the cleared area seeded. It was agreed that Bob would request help from Tom to have this done.

(b) *Footbridge over sluiceway:* Bob stated that this bridge is in poor condition and is unsafe. He has replaced one missing board from the Committee's lumber supply, but others that are decaying also need to be replaced; he would also like to add a railing. However, it was pointed out that this work might be included in the Trail Through Time funding proposal, so it was decided that we would do only basic repair work at this point. Laurie was authorized to spend \$150 for lumber.

(c) *"Mill" building removal:* Bob also stated that he would like to see the small building along the sluiceway removed, but it was pointed out that this might also be part of the Trail Through Time funding proposal, so we will not do anything at this time.

Eagle Scout project updates: (a) *Trail project on Robbins Mill land:* Jim reported that two Scouts had applied and been approved for a Recreational Trails Grant to put in a trail on the Robbins Mill land near the Carlisle town line. However, the funds are being held up by Mass. Highway, and it is uncertain when they will come through. Jim asked for suggestions for other possible projects and two were made: at Nashoba Brook, replace the moveable boardwalk segments with a permanent boardwalk along the yellow trail between the chamber and the access trail from Northbriar Road; and at Guggins, construct boardwalk segments along the blue trail.

(b) *Possible project at chamber:* Jim and Tom met recently with a Scout about undertaking several tasks at the chamber: reconfiguring the chamber access trail, removing invasive

vegetation and replacing it with native species, and digging the holes for the educational display panels. This last item won't be needed until some months from now, but Jim noted that the Scout in question has all of next year to complete his project. Nan stated that she has some ideas about such a project and said she will speak with Tom.

*(c) Nagog Hill boardwalk project:* Bob reported that he met with the Scout who did the boardwalk project at Nagog Hill and asked him to make a few final adjustments to his work. The Scout quickly made the changes, and Bob indicated that the project is now finished to his satisfaction.

Chamber update: Jim reported that he now has permission to remove the orange barrier fencing around the site and the green tarp covering the pile of soil. Nan asked him to wait on the tarp removal until Kimberley Connors has confirmed that the soil has been sifted; Nan will check with Kimberley about this.

Beavers at Guggins: Jim reported that he had thought that the beavers were back at work at Guggins, but he now thinks this is not the case. He will keep an eye on the situation. If they do come back, the beaver-deceivers will need to be fixed. The pipes and wiring of two of the three devices at Guggins have been removed by some unknown person.

Garlic mustard update: Jim reported that he, with some help from Nan and Peggy, removed 30 trash bags full of garlic mustard from the area near the Wheeler Lane parking lot. The effort will continue next year (and several more: it could take five years to eradicate it at this, or any, site). Jim noted that he had worked at two sites this year (the other was Wood Lane at the Arboretum), but he has decided that with a limited number of people involved it would be best to focus on just one.

Workdays: Jim's trail-widening workday at Guggins on July 7, announced to the volunteer list, brought out only one (new) volunteer, but he felt they made good progress. The volunteer suggested that there might have been a better turnout if the workday had been announced further in advance of the event. Bob also had a workday at Nagog Hill (not announced to the list) at which he, Dave C., and Elan (a frequent volunteer) added several more moveable boardwalk segments along the main trail, just north of the boardwalk that the Eagle Scout extended.

Unstewarded parcels: Jim announced that Paul is now able to resume some of his work at Great Hill, and Bettina has been helping there as well. Jim and Bob have been keeping on top of things at Jenks, with some help from Bill Kalms. At Wetherbee, Bob said that he had mowed the trail through the field from the Evangelical Church/Korean Church parking lot to the conservation land once this season. He also requested that the area around the knotweed infestation be grasswhipped and that the partly sunny areas of the cart track be checked to see if they need grasswhipping; Jim said he'd do this.

Equipment update: Following up on Philip's email about the pocket chainsaw (a small, coilable hand tool), Bob has ordered one, though it's by a different manufacturer than the one in the email. It hasn't yet arrived, but Bob will report on its usefulness once he's had a chance to try it out. Joan inquired about the availability of a weedwacker for use at Nagog. Bob said that we have a weedwacker but it doesn't work well. He will try again to adjust it, but meanwhile Jim offered to let Joan try out a sturdier grasswhip that he has.

Next meeting: The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 1, at 4:00 P.M.